



Press Release

National
Agricultural
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Service

In Cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and ForestryLouisiana Field Office • 5825 Florida Blvd • Baton Rouge, LA 70806 • (225) 922-1362 • www.nass.usda.gov

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Louisiana's Planting Intentions Reflect Economic Changes

"Louisiana farmers' 2011 planting intentions reflect the price and economic changes we've seen in the past year," said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Crisp noted that planting intentions for sorghum nearly doubled from the previous year. Louisianans can expect to see more cotton in the state due to a projected fourteen percent increase from the 2010 acreage. Corn, soybeans, wheat and sweet potato acreages are also up from 2010, but rice acreage is expected to decrease.

"The prospective planting intentions reflect the current economic and weather conditions as of March 1," Crisp cautions. "Actual acreage planted may increase or decrease based on what happens during the rest of the planting season." NASS will conduct a June 1 survey to update planted acreage estimates and will release estimates from that survey on June 30, 2011.

Cotton growers intend to plant 290,000 acres of upland cotton, up 35,000 acres (14 percent) from a year ago. **Upland cotton** acreage for the **U.S.** is expected to total 12.3 million acres, up 14 percent from 2010. The **U.S.** planted area for **all cotton** this year is expected to total 12.6 million acres, 15 percent above last year.

Louisiana's **corn** farmers expect to plant 520,000 acres, up 10,000 acres (two percent) from a year ago. **Corn** acreage planted for all purposes in the **U.S.** is estimated at 92.2 million acres, up five percent from last year and seven percent higher than 2009.

Grain sorghum intentions indicate acreage will total 160,000 acres in the state, up 78,000 acres (95 percent) from 2010. **Grain sorghum** planted area for the **U.S.** is estimated at 5.6 million acres, up four percent from 2010.

Louisiana's **soybean** planted acreage is expected to increase by 20,000 acres (two percent) from last year, to 1.05 million acres. **Soybean** planted area for the **U.S.** is estimated at 76.6 million acres, down one percent from last year. If realized, the United States planted area will be the third largest on record.

Rice planted acreage in Louisiana is expected to decrease to 470,000 acres, down 70,000 acres (13 percent) from last year. Long grain varieties are expected to account for 420,000 acres. Producers intend to plant 50,000 acres of medium grain varieties. **Rice** planted area for the **U.S.** is expected to total three million acres, down 17 percent from 2010.

Sweet potato planted acreage in the state is expected to total 14,000 acres, up 500 acres (four percent) from last year. **Sweet potato** acreage for the **U.S.** is estimated at 126,700 acres this year, up six percent from last year.

Winter wheat acreage seeded last fall is estimated at 200,000 acres, up 75,000 acres (60 percent) from seedings for the 2010 crop. The **U.S. all wheat** planted area is estimated at 58.0 million acres, up eight percent from 2010. The 2011 **U.S. winter wheat** planted area, at 41.2 million acres, is up ten percent from the 37.3 million acres planted for the 2010 crop.

An estimated 400,000 acres of **hay** will be harvested, down 50,000 acres (11 percent) from last year. **U.S.** producers expect to harvest 59.0 million acres of **all hay** in 2011, down one percent from 2010.

The first 2011 estimate of **sugarcane** acreage for harvest will be available on June 30, 2011.